

Message Text

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S/S-O - G. TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA FLASH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOR AMBASSADOR MACOMBER

THERE FOLLOWS PORTIONS AUGUST 15 DEPARTMENT NEWS

BRIEFING RELATING TO ANKARA RADIO REPORT OF AMBASSADOR'S

DISCUSSIONS WITH PM ECEVIT. REMAINDER OF BRIEFING

FOLLOWS BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.

QUOTE:

Q: THERE IS A REPORT ON FBIS QUOTING THE ANKARA RADIO AS SAYING THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TOLD PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE TURKISH VIEW THAT TWO AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON CYPRUS ON THE BASIS OF A GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION. IS THAT AN ACCURATE REPORT?

A: C NO, IT IS NOT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IS?

A: LET ME GIVE YOU SOMETHING ON THIS -- BECAUSE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES, AS YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD, HAS PUT FORWARD NO

SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF CYPRUS. WE HAVE SAID THAT WE SUPPORT A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY ON CYPRUS. AND WE DO BELIEVE THAT AUTONOMY IS A WAY OF ASSURING THE PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY.

Q: WOULD YOU GO OVER THAT LAST SENTENCE?

A: WE DO BELIEVE THAT AUTONOMY IS A WAY OF ASSURING THE PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY. WE DID MENTION AUTONOMY BECAUSE WE WERE FULLY AWARE THAT ALL PARTIES IN GENEVA WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS CONCEPT AS A WAY OF MEETING THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES. AND FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID YESTERDAY ON THE RECORD, WHICH YOU ALL HAVE, BUT I WILL READ IT NEVERTHELESS.

"I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT TURKEY HAS LEGITIMATE CONCERNS AND INTERESTS REGARDING ITS COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CONCERNS. AT THE SAME TIME, GREECE AND CYPRUS ALSO HAVE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN CYPRUS."

Q: WELL, THEN, WHY DO YOU SAY THAT THE ANSWER TO THE REPORT IS NO? IT WOULD SEEM TO ME FROM WHAT YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE ANSWER TO THE REPORT IS YES.

A: WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. AS AMBASSADOR MCCLOSEKY SAID HERE YESTERDAY, IT IS UP TO THE PARTIES AND THAT IS WHY I STARTED OFF IN THIS STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE NEVER PUT FORWARD ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. INsofar AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GIVEN AUTONOMOUS AREA, THE DELINEATION OF IT, THE SIZE OF IT, THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE NOT PROPOSED, AND THAT IS WHY I MADE THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT.

Q: DID AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TELL PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS TWO AUTONOMOUS ZONES ON CYPRUS?

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A: NO, HE DID NOT.

Q: HE DID NOT TELL HIM THAT?

A: OUR POSITION IS AS I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU HERE. AND AMBASSADOR MACOMBER DIDN'T HAVE ANY DIFFERENT POSITION THAN THE ONE I HAVE GIVEN YOU. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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